Privatisation of F.M. Radio Broadcasting Centres

*207. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently decided to privatise F.M. radio broadcasting centres in the country;

(b) if so, the details and plans of Government in this regard;

(c) whether privatising of F.M. radio broadcasting centres will have any control of Government in so far as security of the nation is concerned; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY):(a) and (b) The Government have decided to allow 100% Indian owned private Companies to set up FM Radio stations in 40 cities as detailed in the statement (see below). The process of granting licence to selected parties has been started by inviting bids through advertisement in October 99.

(c) and (d) Following provisions are envisaged as a part of licensing conditions to safeguard national security.

(i) The Government reserves the right to take over the entire services and networks of the licensee or revoke/terminate/ suspend the license in the interest of national security or in the event of a national emergency/War or low intensity conflict or similar type of situations. Further, the Government reserves the right to direct the licensee to close down the service if implications of security so requires.

(ii) The Government reserves the right to modify at any time the terms and conditions of this license, if it is necessary to do so, in the interests of the general public, or for the proper conduct of broadcasting, or for security considerations and reasons.

Statement

Centres & No. of Channels in each Centre for FM Broadcasting through Pvt. Agencies.

SL No.	Centre	Number of Channels	Reserve (Rs. Licence fee for First * Year in Lakh)
1.	Calcutta	11	100
2.	Chennai	11	100
3.	Delhi	11	125
4.	Mumbai	10	125
5.	Ahmedabad	3	75
6.	Bangalore	5	100
7.	Hyderabad	3	75
8.	Indore	4	50
9.	Lucknow	3	50
10.	Pune	6	50
11.	Visakhapatnam	7	50
12.	Agra		20
13.	Allahabad		20
14.	Aurangabad		20
15.	Bhopal		20
x6.	Bhubaneshwar		20
17.	Chandigarh		50
18.	Cochin		50
19.	Coimbatore		50
20.	Cuttack		20
21.	Guwahati	2	20

SI. No.	Centre	Number of Channels	Reserve Licence fee for First Year (Rs. in Lakh)
22.	Jabalpur	1	20
23.	Jaipur	1	50
24.	Jalandhar	1	50
25.	Jamnagar	1	20
26.	Kanpur	1	50
27.	Ludhiana	1	50
38.	Madurai	1	50
29.	Mysore	1	20
30.	Nagpur	1	50
31.	Panaji	2	50
32.	Patna	2	50
33.	Raipur	1	20
34.	Rajkot	1	20
35.	Shillong	1	20
36.	Srinagar	2	50
37.	Tiruchy	1	50
38.	Tirunel Veli	1	20
39.	Trivandrum	1	50
40.	Varanasi	1	20
	TOTAL:	108	